United Nations S/2000/1008

Security Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2000
English
Original: French

Letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a document entitled "Stop the occupation of the Congo! Stop the slaughter of innocent people!" (see annex), in which Congolese women from all walks of life denounce the violence and abuse inflicted on them by the occupation of the country and call for your support so as to enable them to guarantee for their children and for coming generations lives in which they can develop freely.

You will note once again, contrary to the reply set out in document S/2000/416 by Mr. Emile Ilunga, that Congolese women have indeed been buried alive. Due attention must be paid to these grave human rights violations so as to ensure that the perpetrators of these barbarous acts are brought to justice.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) André **Mwamba Kapanga**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-70196 (E) 201000 201000

Annex to the letter dated 20 October 2000 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Stop the occupation of the Congo!

Stop the slaughter of innocent people!

The outraged women of the Congo call on you for support

We, Congolese women from all walks of life and all social classes, together with all those who have sympathy for our cause, today break our silence in order to denounce the violence and abuse committed daily in our country, the Congo, particularly in the eastern region.

We express our concern to guarantee for our children and for coming generations lives that will enable them to develop fully.

However, the acts of aggression directed against our country are an obstacle to building any sort of education, instruction, training or development structure; the most abominable crimes are being perpetrated against children, women and men of all ages and of all social backgrounds.

For example, in November 1999, in Mwenga, South Kivu, 15 women were buried alive by the torturers of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Démocratie. Before burying them alive in a pit, they inserted a red pepper mixture into their sexual organs. Among the victims of these barbarous acts were:

Ms. Lurnini Evudne Bitondo, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Bukumbu, a farmer from Ilinda

Ms. Agnès Kungwa, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Mutiki Mapendo, a farmer from Ilinda

Ms. Musombwa Mbinzi, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Mukoto, a farmer from Bulinzi

The wife of Kisali Mwami, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Nakipimo Nakusu, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Kasandule Nyassa, a farmer from Ilinda

Ms. Christine San, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Sifa, a farmer from Bulinzi

Ms. Wakenge Tabu, a farmer from Bulinzi

... and many other unidentified women.

These massacres, which were extremely and gratuitously barbarous, were perpetrated on the orders of Frank Kasereka of the Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie against peaceful, innocent mothers. Other reliable accounts describe abominable forms of torture such as holding the victim's head down in a barrel full of water until death ensued; forcing respected individuals to appear naked before a large crowd; spitting, urinating or defecating into the victim's mouth and obliging him or her to swallow these fluids and excreta; raping children in front of their parents; forcing a father to rape his daughter, forcing a son to have sex with his mother, and a brother with his sister; and disembowelling pregnant women.

All these crimes committed against fellow human beings and the feelings of helplessness they engender cannot leave other people indifferent since they are so shameful that they sully and dishonour all mankind.

As citizens of the Congo, as mothers and teachers of coming generations of Congolese, we are outraged by the acts of aggression directed against our country, and we call on all people of goodwill who are able to do so, and on the International Federation of Human Rights, the League of Human Rights, national and international organizations, and nations that assert that they are friends of the Congo and of the Congolese, to join with us in bringing pressure to bear on the aggressors in order to oblige them to leave the Congo immediately and unconditionally so that we can restore peace in our country.

Without peace, and without national unity, no project to reconstruct the country or educate and train young people will lead anywhere and all lives will be in the balance. It is essential that the International Federation of Human Rights and the Human Rights League should send commissions of inquiry to the Congo to investigate these abuses and report to the International Criminal Court.

Confronted with these barbarous acts, we cry loud and clear, "Enough!" We strongly denounce the massacres at Makobola, Kasika, Walungu, Chiunga and Uvira, and we express our outrage at the killers, rapists and torturers.

The momentum of courageous, forward-looking men, women and children in reconstructing this young nation has been broken by the unjust occupation of the country by the Ugandan, Rwandan and Burundian armies, which bring all their efforts to naught.

In order to end this shameful situation and prevent these troops from causing further harm, we, Congolese women from all walks of life and from all social classes, call on the Congolese people and on all who support our cause to join us in this appeal:

Stop the occupation!

Stop the slaughter of innocent people!

Stop the violence!

Stop the enslavement of the people!

Stop the plundering and destruction of the Congo!

[*Signed*] Emma **Kayolo-Katshaka**, M.D.
Rue Charles Jaumotte 44
1300 Limal, tel. 010-40 08 03

[*Signed*] Madiya Clémentine **Nzuji**,
Professor at Louvain Catholic University,
Secretary-General of the Centre international des langues,
littératures et traditions d'Afrique
Avenue des Clos 30
1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, tel. 010-45 06 65

[*Signed*] Marie **Muderhwa**,
Sociologist
Av. de la Cigogne 6
1300 Limal, tel. 010-41 62 73

[*Signed*] Lembo Chantal **Bashizi**,
Jurist
Chaussée de Huy 30
1300 Wavre, tel. 010-24 48 83